

## A Holotype Problem and a New Specific Name in *Pseudochaeta* (Diptera: Tachinidae)

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In the tachinid genus *Pseudochaeta* Coquillett, a problem of holotype designation requires a note of explanation.

Coquillett (1895) described a new species, *Pseudochaeta argentifrons*, from "Charlotte Harbor, Florida (Mrs. A. T. Slosson), and Los Angeles, California (D. W. Coquillett). Four males and three females."

In 1941, Townsend listed *argentifrons* as the type-species of the genus, with "Ht Male, At Female—Origin, Charlotte Harbor, Florida; location Washington." Brooks (1945), following Townsend, applied the name *argentifrons* to a southeastern species, and distinguished a closely related northern and western species which he named *canadensis*. Reinhard's (1946) revision of the genus followed the interpretations by Townsend and Brooks.

However, in his famous "Revision of the Tachinidae" (1897), Coquillett, after giving several key characters for *argentifrons*, stated "From the type specimen," and this statement appears to us to fix the type of the species, well in advance of the statement by Townsend. In the collection of the U. S. National Museum, the red "Type" label, No. 3621, numbered in Coquillett's characteristic handwriting, is on a male from "Los Angeles Co., Cal.," and this was so entered in the Museum's type book by Coquillett himself on May 22, 1899. Unfortunately, this specimen is the western species described by Brooks as *Pseudochaeta canadensis*, which thus falls as a synonym of *argentifrons*. For the southeastern species, which now lacks a name, we propose *Pseudochaeta brooksi*, in honor of the late A. R. Brooks. We validate the name by bibliographic reference to the description of "*argentifrons*" by Reinhard (1946, *Canad. Ent.* 78: 116-117). The

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type series is composed of the 25 specimens listed by Reinhard as "Material examined," and from these, some of which are now before us, we have selected the male from Charlotte Harbor, Florida, as holotype. This specimen was presumably part of the original mixed-type series of *argentifrons*.

Incidentally, Coquillett's "type" from California has the precise key character (of Coquillett's 1897 revision) of the third antennal segment in the male five times as long as the second, but this character does not apply to the southeastern species represented by the material from Charlotte Harbor, Florida.

With reference to Townsend's 1941 statement, we note that no "type," "holotype," or "lectotype" labels were applied to specimens of this or any other species for which Townsend published such designations in his Manual. It is true that the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature does not require such labeling as a part of the acceptability of a designation. This failure, and the virtual certainty that Townsend made many such designations from the literature alone, mean that sometimes one cannot identify which specimen is intended and that sometimes a designation is contrary to fact in the type series itself, as in the present case. For *argentifrons*, Coquillett published a type designation ("From the type specimen") and labeled the specimen in the collection. His action has priority, as well as being better taxonomic procedure, and we believe that it must take precedence over Townsend's 1941 action.

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